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Message Text

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43
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 CIAE-00 IO-03 L-01 PRS-01 DLOS-03 OFA-01 /043 W
---------- 007762
P R 121023Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8809
USUNMISSION NDW YORK 1517
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCUNC
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1638

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR US KS
SUBJECT: ROKG PUBLIC AFFAIRS TREATMENT OF FEB 26 INCIDENT

REF: STATE 51677

1. ACTING CHIEF POLITICAL SECTION CALLED ON AMERICAN BUREAU DIRECTOR YI SANG OCK MARCH 12 AND MADE POINTS IN REFTEL. YI READ COPY OF ROK UN MISSION MARCH 4 RELEASE, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT RELEASE GAVE FALSE IMPRESSION IT WAS UNC RELEASE, BUT POINTED OT THAT BY-LINE MADE IT CLEAR IT WAS INDEED KOREAN PRESS SERVICE STORY. HE SAID HE WOULD PASS ON OUR VIEWS IMMEDIATELY TO FOREIGN MINISTER AND ALSO TO MND.

2. YI ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED DESIRABILITY OF DOWN PLAYING INCIDENT BUT SAID ROK UN MISSION HAD FELT IT NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO RELEASES ON INCIDENT MADE BY NORTH KOREANS IN NEW YORK. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT THIS DID NOT ALTER POINTS HE HAD MADE.
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3. YI THEN SAID THATIN RESPONSE TO EARLIER CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR (SEOUL 1361) MOFA HAD TALKED TO MND ABOUT PROBLEM OF USING TERM "OPERATIONAL WATERS" IN ITS PUBLIC JUSTIFICATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN FEB 26 YELLOW SEA INCIDENT. WITHOUT SAYING SO DIRECTLY HE STRONGLY IMPLIED MOFA HAD NOT MADE MUCH IMPRESSION AND HE URGED THAT THESE POINTS BE MADE BY UNC COMMANDERS WHO HAVE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OVER ROK FORCES. EMBOFF SAID THIS HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE, BUT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT LEFT ANYWHERE IN ROKG THAT WE REGARDED AREA IN QUESTION AS INTERNATIONAL WATERS, AND THAT WE COULD NOT SUPPORT ROK STATEMENT JUSTIFYING ACTIONS IT HAD TAKEN ON BASIS GEOGRAPHICAL CLAIMS.

4. FOLLOWING ABOVE CONVERSATION AMBASSADOR LATER IN DAY WENT OVER SAME POINTS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. FONMIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT USE OF TERM OPERATIONAL WATERS HAS NO BASIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW. HE PLACED THE BLAME SOLELY ON MND AND SAID MOFA WOULD BE ALERT TO PREVENT FURTHER USE OF THIS TERM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL WATERS, YELLOW SEA, HIGH SEAS INCIDENTS, PRESS RELEASES, FISHING BOATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750086-0607
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750358/aaaabzvk.tel
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 51677
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
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